

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S55**

(Doc. No. 7046ahb09.docx)

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TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Allan Kincaid and Rodney Grizzle		
DATE:	January 22, 2009	SBD:	2009038

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AUTHOR:	Senator Ford	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	Joint Resolution
SUBJECT:	Constitutional Amendment - Supreme Court Membership		

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:  
See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:  
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

Senate Bill 55 would amend Section 2, Article V of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, 1895, by increasing the number of State Supreme Court Justices from five (5) to Seven (7) effective January 1, 2011.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

The Election Commission

The agency indicates there will be no fiscal impact on the General Fund of the State or on Federal/other funds. While there is a cost associated with printing a referendum ballot, the funding for statewide elections is sufficient to cover this cost

Judicial Department

There will be an impact on the Department if the number of Supreme Court Judges is increased by two members. The impact on the General Fund of the State for two additional Judges and corresponding staff is an estimated \$813,260 in personal services and associated operating expenses. Each judge has an administrative assistant and two law clerks. Non-recurring costs of \$100,360 are estimated for automation and furniture. This Bill may also require renovations to the Supreme Court Building to add office space for the additional Associate Justices and their staff.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:**

None.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell  
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget